


NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL BACKYARDS PROGRAM

Earth-friendly gardening in Clark County



A garden is a delight to the eye and a solace for the soul.

- Sadi

A garden scene featuring a shovel, a watering can, and various plants. The shovel is the central focus, with its wooden handle and metal head. To its left is a blue watering can. In the background, there are several potted plants, including a large terracotta pot and a smaller one with purple flowers. The ground is covered in brown mulch and some green plants with small purple flowers in the foreground.

Gardening requires a lot of water — most of it in the form of perspiration.
- Sir Walter Scott

CLARK COUNTY NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL BACKYARDS

THE NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL BACKYARDS PROGRAM teaches us to incorporate nature's balance into our gardens and create healthy and productive ecosystems in our yards.

The natural balance of forest and wetland areas can be very hard to duplicate at home. Naturally Beautiful Backyards provides information that can help you achieve this balance and reduce or eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers in your yard and garden.

Many insects that are killed by commonly-used garden insecticides are actually beneficial to the health of your garden. By eliminating them, your garden's ability to fight pests is compromised. Learning about natural gardening techniques will greatly reduce your need to use chemicals to control disease and pests. You may also discover that a little tolerance for the small imperfections of nature goes a long way toward contributing to your healthy yard and garden, and to the overall health of our community.



THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT NATURAL GARDENING

Attend a lecture

Attend a series of informative talks about topics related to natural gardening. Past lectures include presentations about hummingbirds, bats, living with city wildlife, urban chickens, beneficial insects, and attracting birds to your backyard. Join our mailing list if you would like to be notified about upcoming speakers.

Attend natural gardening workshops

Attend a workshop to learn about various techniques and planning tools to ensure that your journey into natural gardening is successful. Local experts share their knowledge and answer your questions during these sessions. Workshops will offer information on various topics such as gardening without chemicals and planning your own home landscape.

Enter the natural garden contest

Enter our contest for natural gardeners in early summer. If you have a naturally beautiful backyard, please let us know. We'll tour your garden and award prizes to yards that represent natural gardening at its best. Please return the attached card so we can contact you if you are interested in participating.



Growing a naturally beautiful backyard relies on techniques that

- Build healthy soil
- Plant environmentally friendly shrubs, trees, and ground cover instead of lawn
- Locate plants in areas that optimize growth and minimize care
- Manage onsite rainwater
- Attract beneficial organisms

Participate in a school program

Students can participate in developing onsite gardens, classroom presentations, and field trips. Teachers and parents can contact us to make arrangements for any of these free programs. Grant funds are available to assist in the development of onsite gardens at Clark County schools. Master Composter/Recycler volunteers are available to visit classrooms to provide information about composting and worm bins. Mother Nature's Garden Puppet Show is an assembly program available to groups of 100 kindergarteners through third graders.

Take a natural garden tour

Beginning in summer 2006, the Naturally Beautiful Backyards program will sponsor an annual tour of homes in Clark County that garden without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides. If you would like more information about attending the tour, or would like to be one of the featured gardens, please fill out the attached card and a staff member will contact you.

Visit a demonstration garden

Coming in spring 2006, drop in on the demonstration natural garden located at H & H Wood Recyclers, Inc., 8401 N.E. 117th Avenue, Vancouver. You'll wander through a garden that uses techniques described in our publications and workshops. See an active rain barrel and look at a variety of compost bins and systems. Observe streamside plantings, restoration areas, and climate-friendly plants as they change through the seasons.

Read our natural gardening publications

Several natural gardening brochures and booklets are available on our Web site or call (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 to request copies of our literature.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about the programs described in this brochure, or if you have questions about natural gardening techniques, please call (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 or visit our Web site at www.naturallybeautifulbackyards.org



YES! I'm interested in learning more about the Naturally Beautiful Backyards Program.

Mark the boxes below if you would like to have your garden included on the tour or to enter our naturally beautiful backyard contest.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Preferred contact ☐ E-mail

☐ Regular mail

☐ I would like to receive mailings and notifications about natural gardening programs

☐ I would like to participate in the naturally beautiful backyards contest

☐ I would like to volunteer my yard for the naturally beautiful garden tour

☐ Other _____



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Clark County Solid Waste Program
P.O. Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

The Naturally Beautiful Backyards Program is a partnership of

Clark County Public Works Solid Waste Program
Clark County Master Composter/Recycler Program
Clark County/WSU Extension Master Gardener Program
Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
H&H Wood Recyclers, Inc.



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.
Voice (360) 397-2025 TTY (360) 397-2445 E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov



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4/05

